

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

So here we are on the last Sunday of Advent. In these Pre-Christmas days, we have had a remarkably busy Angel. The people of the Old testament have waited many years for the coming of the Messiah. And now the time is fulfilled.

Gabriel is the messenger of God, announcing new life and fulfilment of the promise made to Israel. Their time of darkness and gloom is at an end.

A Thread of HOPE.

Gabriel breaks into human history, announcing to Mary that she is to BE the WAY OF THE LORD. The chosen one who is invited to be the mother of this Messiah, to bring the Second Person of the Trinity into human form. With Mary's "Yes" the Reign of God begins. With Mary's "yes", the Holy Spirit crosses the threshold into our humanity. Now it begins. But.... What begins???

Gabriel informs Mary that her kinswoman, Elizabeth, is also with child. As Elizabeth is significantly older, Mary seeks insight and consolation. She visits Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.

An Angel and two women, once again significant people in God's great plan. Like the Angel and the women at the empty tomb, so now this angel and these two women in anticipation of birth, Death to LIFE.

This is concluding to be a strange and maybe wonderful year. Like Mary we wonder as we wander through this journey. Gabriel consoled Mary with the promise of the Holy Spirit.

What reassurance or peace is the Spirit of God bringing you?